

Amendment to the Drawings

Attached hereto are replacement sheets for all drawings.

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated September 8, 2006.

Drawings

The applicant has provided formalized drawings attached hereto.

Claim Objections

The claims have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's request.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 112

Claim 57 referred to by the Examiner is cancelled.

Claim 89 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection.

Claims 109-116 are dependant claim and their method steps are set out in their antecedent claim.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102/103

Initially, the Examiner has rejected claim 59 under 35 USC 102(a). To reject the claim, the Office must clearly demonstrate that each and every claim feature is identically disclosed in a single prior art reference. See *Scripps Clinic & Research Foundation v. Genentech, Inc.*, 18 U.S.P.Q.2d 1001, 1010 (Fed. Cir. 1991). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. M.P.E.P. §2131.

A key advantage of the invention is that it provides seamless connectivity for a remote user. A remote user using a web browser accesses a site that is publicly accessible from any web accessible browser. After authenticating the user's access details, information required to raise a connection to the gateway corresponding to that particular user (the access site and underlying system may store connection details for thousands of different users and gateways) is automatically retrieved from a database, and a communications server then uses the retrieved connection details to raise a secure connection to the user's gateway. Once an active IP connection has been made to the user's gateway, the user's browser session is automatically redirected to the user interface served by their gateway, and the user then has exactly the same user interface that they use locally in the home to access, monitor and control their service applications.

In current implementations, broadband has replaced dialup, thus providing a permanent connection. However, even having a permanent connection does not mean that a system would be readily accessible by a remote user, as the IP addresses are typically dynamically assigned to the gateway and the user has no knowledge of it. The invention still allows access for the remote user. A database is maintained of the connection details required to access all gateways. The user follows precisely the same process, and once they have logged in to the access site, the communications server uses the connection details (the current IP address for the gateway) to establish a secure connection to the user's gateway.

In claim 59, these advantages are in essence set out in the redirection process discussed in the last paragraph of claim 59 as follows:

wherein upon accessing a predetermined address by said Internet browser on said extranet, said communications server subsequently creates a new connection to a predetermined one of said connection gateways to control and/or monitor the operation of said service, with said connection gateway subsequently providing access to information contained within the environment directly to said Internet browser.

It is respectfully submitted that this mechanism of access is not disclosed in Venkatraman. The Examiner, in paragraph 9a of the office action sets out that the Examiner considers this integer can be found at “(lines 14-24 of page 3 and lines 6-12 of page 5)” of Venkatraman.

Lines 14-24 of page 3 of Venkatraman relate to a general description of the embedded web access functionality of the device 10 and its interface. There is no description of the redirection process of claim 59.

Lines 6-12 of Page 5 of Venkatraman relates to an alternative embodiment wherein:

“the processor 200 generates web page 18 on the fly in response to the HTTP command from the web browser 40. In such an embodiment, the processor 200 obtains information pertaining to the device from the device-specific hardware 300 after receiving the HTTP command and recognizing the URL contained therein. The processor 200 formats the information into the HTML format that defines the web page 18 and transfers the HTML formatted information to the web browser 40 via the home based network 30.

The HTML file is transferred according to the HTTP protocol which specifies the URL corresponding to the web browser 40. The web browser 40 receives the HTML file and renders the web page 18 on the display 42."

This paragraph of Venkatraman is a discussion of a process of creation of web pages on the fly rather than a process of redirection. It is submitted that neither passage discloses the above element of claim 59 of the:

communications server subsequently creates a new connection to a predetermined one of said connection gateways to control and/or monitor the operation of said service, with said connection gateway subsequently providing access to information contained within the environment directly to said Internet browser

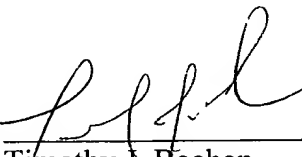
Rather, in the alternative embodiment in Venkatraman, the processor acts as a server and transfers the monitored information. There is no step as described and none of the consequential operational advantages are provided.

The remaining claims 60-120 stand rejected based on being either anticipated by Venkatraman or obvious over combination with Venkatraman. For at least the reasons stated above regarding the deficiencies of Venkatraman, the remaining claims are patentable in at least their dependency on a novel main claim.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 7, 2007

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